

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 15

July 11, 2012

**SUBJECT:** RESPONSIBILITY FOR REQUESTING ADDITIONAL UNITS FOR  
A VEHICLE PURSUIT - REVISED

**PURPOSE:** In order to ensure consistency in the assignment of a back-up unit for a vehicle pursuit, this Order revises Department Manual Sections 4/205.01, *Notifying Communications Division*, and 4/205.10, *Control of a Vehicle Pursuit*. These sections have been revised to assign Communications Division the responsibility to request and assign a back-up unit when advised by the officers that they are initiating a vehicle pursuit.

**PROCEDURE:** Attached are the revised Department Manual Sections 4/205.01, *Notifying Communications Division*, and 4/205.10, *Control of a Vehicle Pursuit*, with revisions indicated in italics.

**AMENDMENTS:** This Order amends Sections 4/205.01 and 4/205.10 of the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Internal Audits and Inspections Division, will review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection will be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



CHARLIE BECK  
Chief of Police

Attachment

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VOLUME IV  
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**205.01 NOTIFYING COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION.** When a unit goes in pursuit, it shall advise Communications Division that it is "in pursuit" and give the unit's identification, location, a description of the pursued vehicle and/or suspects, directions taken, and reason for pursuit. *Communications Division will be responsible for requesting and assigning to the pursuit a back-up unit, air unit and an available uniformed supervisor in close proximity to the pursuit.* The pursuing unit shall give frequent and comprehensive progress reports.

Any unit having pertinent information regarding the pursuit may advise Communications Division. The secondary unit shall also notify Communications Division, as soon as possible, of the secondary unit's involvement in the pursuit by stating that it is "in pursuit" and its unit identification and location. Once a supervisor is assigned to a pursuit, he/she shall respond immediately and upon arrival, declare themselves as Incident Commander via broadcast to Communications Division.

**Unmarked Units.** Unmarked units without emergency equipment shall not engage in a pursuit. However, officers in unmarked units without emergency equipment may become involved in emergency activities involving a serious crime or a life-endangering situation. In those rare instances, it may be necessary to follow a suspect vehicle while summoning assistance from a black-and-white, four-wheeled unit equipped with external roof-mounted emergency lights. Officers in an unmarked unit without emergency equipment shall not violate the rules of the road as defined in Division 11 of the California Vehicle Code.

When officers in an unmarked unit without emergency equipment become aware that a unit with emergency equipment has arrived and will attempt to stop the suspect vehicle, the unmarked unit shall disengage.

**Note:** A hybrid unit is a marked, emergency-equipped vehicle and may engage in vehicular pursuit. However, a hybrid is bound by the same restrictions as a motorcycle unit or a dual-purpose unit.

**205.10 CONTROL OF A VEHICLE PURSUIT.**

**General Guidelines.** *Communications Division will be responsible for requesting and assigning to the pursuit a back-up unit, air unit and an available uniformed supervisor in close proximity to the pursuit.* Responding back-up units may respond "Code-Three." However, once all authorized units have joined the pursuit, all other units shall discontinue their "Code-Three" response. Officers in all other units shall stay clear of the pursuit, but remain alert to its progress and location.

**Note:** When available, any unit in a pursuit should be a two-officer unit. Tactically, two officers (driver and passenger) are better able to evaluate and control activities in a pursuit.

If the unit initiating the pursuit cannot continue as the primary unit, the secondary unit shall become the primary unit. The secondary unit shall advise Communications Division that it is the primary unit. Another unit may then enter the pursuit and shall advise Communications Division that it is the secondary unit.

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In the event a pursuit is initiated by an officer on a motorcycle or in a hybrid or dual purpose vehicle, the pursuing motor officer or driver of the hybrid or dual purpose vehicle shall relinquish the role as the primary unit when a four-wheeled, black-and-white unit equipped with external roof-mounted emergency lights has joined the pursuit. Absent exigent circumstances, officers on a motorcycle or in a hybrid or dual purpose vehicle shall not become a secondary unit after they become aware of the arrival of a secondary black-and-white, four-wheeled unit equipped with external roof-mounted emergency lights.

**Primary Unit's Responsibilities.** The responsibility of the officers in the primary unit is the apprehension of the suspect without unreasonably endangering themselves or others. The senior officer of the primary unit shall be the Incident Commander and will be responsible for maintaining management and control of the pursuit until a supervisor arrives.

The senior officer's responsibilities also include the decision to become involved in a pursuit, whether more than two units should join the pursuit, and whether the pursuit should be terminated.

**Secondary Unit's Responsibility.** The secondary unit shall be responsible for backing up the primary unit and broadcasting pertinent information at the termination of the pursuit.

**Supervisor's Responsibilities.** Once a supervisor is assigned to a pursuit, he/she shall respond immediately and upon arrival, declare themselves as Incident Commander via broadcast to Communications Division. As Incident Commander, he/she shall be responsible for the management and control of the pursuit and post pursuit incident management.

The Incident Commander shall monitor the pursuit and continuously assess the situation and ensure that the pursuit is conducted within Department guidelines. If necessary, the supervisor shall direct specific units out of the pursuit, reassign the primary or secondary units, terminate the pursuit, or determine the necessity of employing a VIT. Code Three vehicle operation is authorized for the supervisor, at the supervisor's discretion, to properly monitor and direct the pursuit.

**Watch Commander's Responsibility.** The watch commander of the primary unit has the authority to assume incident command or transfer command of a pursuit at any time. If that watch commander transfers command of a pursuit (e.g., to another Area watch commander, the California Highway Patrol, etc.), he/she shall immediately notify Communications Division, other involved units, and any on-scene air unit of the transfer of command. If he/she assumes incident command, the Watch Commander shall immediately notify Communications Division and the involved field supervisor of his/her assumption of command. The involved supervisor and all concerned units shall be guided by the Incident Commander's direction.

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**Communications Division's Responsibility.** *Upon notification of a unit going in pursuit,* Communications Division shall ensure that an air unit, back-up (secondary) unit, and any available uniformed supervisor in close proximity to the pursuit are assigned to the pursuit. When an outside pursuing agency requests assistance, Communications Division **shall** contact the requesting agency to determine the nature of the pursuit (i.e., traffic infraction, felony evading, wanted for robbery, driving under the influence, etc.).